

Department of Environmental Conservation

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH Solid Waste Program

555 Cordova Street Anchorage, Alaska 99501 Main: 907.269.7802 Fax: 907.269.7600

June 16, 2014

RE: Disposal of Construction and Demolition Waste in Rural Alaska

Dear Contractor:

As the Alaska construction season approaches, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) Solid Waste Program wants to focus attention on proper disposal of construction and demolition (C&D) waste in rural Alaska. Often no permitted landfill is available, the landfill does not accept C&D waste, or the landfill does not have adequate space available to accommodate the large volume of waste that may be associated with demolition projects. It is important that you contact the community to determine if the local landfill is permitted, is willing to accept the waste from your project, and if there are any fees for disposal. The landfill is not required to accept this waste, so prior communication and planning is essential.

Disposal of waste in an unpermitted landfill is illegal and can result in enforcement action by ADEC. Many communities do not have a current permit to operate their landfills. Check our website for a list of permitted landfills at http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/sw. If the local landfill is not permitted you may want to consider assisting the community with obtaining a permit. This is not a complicated process for most rural landfills, and our staff will be happy to help you.

If you are unable to dispose of the waste at the local landfill, your options are limited. One option, if your project meets the required criteria, is to apply for a One-Time Inert Waste Monofill authorization. If your project doesn't qualify for the One-Time authorization, you may be able to obtain an individual inert waste landfill permit for the project. (The permit application forms are available on our website.) Otherwise the waste must be transported to a landfill that can accept the waste.

Of course, prior to demolition of any structure, any hazardous materials must be removed and shipped to an appropriate facility for recycling or disposal. These materials may include:

- items coated with lead-based paint;
- asbestos in insulation, ceiling or floor tiles, and grout;
- mercury in switches, thermostats, electronics, fluorescent bulbs and other equipment;
- chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) or other harmful chemicals in old refrigerators, air conditioners and aerosol cans;
- polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in transformers, lubricants, paints, and sealants; and,
- potentially toxic household or agricultural chemicals, including certain paints, cleaning products and pesticides.

Please help us with assisting the rural communities to make their landfills safe and environmentally sound. If you are able to dispose of waste in a rural landfill, and they do not have a fee system, please assist them by using equipment to help clean up the landfill. Even small improvements can help the community toward a healthier and safer landfill.

Please feel free to contact the ADEC Solid Waste Program at the following numbers, or visit our webpage at http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/sw with any questions about proper waste disposal:

Anchorage: Doug Huntman 907-269-7642

Stephen Price 907-269-7467

Fairbanks: Trish Bower 907-451-2174

Juneau: Sandi Woods 907-465-5318

Sincerely,

Robert J. Blankenburg, P.E. Solid Waste Program Manager